

more efficient manner of producing cleated anti-creep dust control mats than previously followed. The produced mat as well as the woven fabric article/cushioned platen liner combination are also encompassed within this invention.--

REMARKS

The Abstract has been amended to remove the objected to trademark and to reduce the number of words therein to fewer than 150. It is respectfully submitted that the pending objection to the disclosure is not moot as a result.

No Claims have been amended, added, or canceled. Thus, Claims 1-2 are pending within this application.


The Office has rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kerr et al. Applicants respectfully disagree with this position, particularly in view of the pending claims wherein a weave structure is present within the rubber component of the bottom portion of the claimed floor mat in which a cleat is not present. The cited prior art teaches the presence of different types of cleats for anti-creep purposes. However, there is no mention anywhere within the four corners of such a reference that any structures except for cleats are present within the bottom portion of the target floor mat article. As such, there is no teaching or fair suggestion that any patterns, let alone specific weave structure patterns, are present or can be introduced, within the non-cleated rubber areas of the bottom portion of the Kerr et al. floor mat. Thus, the cited reference fails to provide either an anticipatory disclosure of the present claim limitations. Nor does such a reference provide any proper basis of obviousness over the pending claims since there is no motivation provided to the

ordinarily skilled artisan to provide any anti-creep structural benefits other than through cleats. Again, since the present claims require that all areas free from cleats exhibit the required weave pattern within the rubber component of the claimed floor mat, the lack of any teaching of anything but cleats within the bottom portion of the Kerr et al. floor mat article shows a clear lack of disclosure of the Applicants' "invention as a whole". Jones v. Hardy, 220 USPQ 2d 1021, 1025 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Thus, it is respectfully submitted that such a basis of rejection is improper over the pending claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal are therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

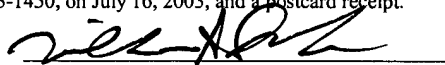
In view of all of the previous amendments and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and it is requested that this application be passed on to issue.

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- Respectfully submitted

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to The Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 16, 2003, and a postcard receipt.


William S. Parks, Attorney for Applicants

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS TO 09/915,017

IN THE ABSTRACT:

The Abstract has been replaced with the following:

--The present invention relates to specific methods of producing cleated rubber-backed floor mats (such as dust control or rubber mats) through the utilization of the combination of a perforated coated woven fabric article and a cushioned platen liner between the article and the metal platen of an in-line dust control mat manufacturing machine. Such a procedure permits a more efficient manner of producing cleated anti-creep dust control mats than previously followed. [In particular, the fabric article is in the form of a conveyor belt and is preferably constructed from Teflon®-coated woven fiberglass which will not adhere to the tacky rubber component of the target mat and can withstand the extremely high vulcanization temperatures and pressures required during the production of a dust control mat. The cushioned platen liner, which is preferably comprised of or coated with silicon, is utilized as a separator between the metal platen of the manufacturing machine, as well as cushion for the molten rubber as it is pressed through the conveyor belt perforations during vulcanization. Such a cushioned liner material substantially eliminates any problems due to the force of the metal platen against the molten rubber as it passes through the article perforations.] The produced mat as well as the woven fabric article/cushioned platen liner combination are also encompassed within this invention.--